

Local not surprised by train derailment



Photo by Megan Lacelle

Saskatchewan is the scene of the latest train derailment. Twenty-six cars on a CN train derailed by Clair, Sask. Oct. 7.

Megan Lacelle

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Andreas Gryba was working on his combine in the yard when he noticed a large plume of black smoke rising in the distance. The 21-year-old drove onto the highway to see what was happening. He assumed someone was just burning stubble; instead he discovered 26 rail cars piled like matchsticks across the tracks.

"You could see a big cloud of black smoke and flames," Gryba said. His hometown of Clair was only a kilometre from the scattered cars and billowing flames.

"My mom went and talked to the CN guys when they got there and they told her to leave because they were scared that there was going to be something blowing up," he said. Wadena RCMP was phoned at 10:39 a.m. and by 3:30 p.m. a command post was created to organize the provincial and CN emergency crews.

A state of emergency was declared and an evacuation was ordered by the local R.M. of Lakeview.

CN reports that the train, trav-

elling at 40 mph, was carrying 100 cars en route to Saskatoon when it derailed 21 km west of Wadena. The Transportation Safety Board reports that the train-initiated brake application occurred; of the 100 cars, six were carrying hazardous goods including petroleum distillate, sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. The derailment

"There are a lot of busted railroad ties along the track and there's spikes hanging out. It just looks like the track isn't being taken care of."

- Andreas Gryba

caused the petroleum distillate to catch on fire and lead to the subsequent evacuation of Clair and every other residence in a 5 km radius of the incident.

"Accidents of this sort are rare, but we take them very seriously," CN spokesperson Jim Feeny said. The flames were caused by two cars carrying petroleum distillate, with some reports of flames reaching 30 metres high. The cause of the incident is being investigated by the Transportation

Safety Board. The board declined to comment.

"It was just a matter of time," Gryba said. He has been concerned about the state of the railway tracks since last year.

"There are a lot of busted railroad ties along the track and there's spikes hanging out. It just looks like the track isn't being taken care of," Gryba said. "This

track wasn't meant from the traffic that it's getting now. To start with they were taking caution, going slow, but now they're just going wide open."

However, Feeny said that CN ensures that its line meet the standards.

"The rail ties are replaced over time. They are installed and inspected and once they reach a certain level of wear they are taken out. So it is entirely normal to see some rail ties with a

degree of wear."

He said a visual inspection was completed on Monday, a day before the derailment, where no problems were identified.

"There are standards that have to be met, Transport Canada standards and CN's mandate is to meet or exceed those standards."

As for the increase in traffic, Feeny said the entire rail network is seeing more and more cars on the line.

More than 30 people were evacuated and no injuries were reported. CN and the Ministry of Environment are currently testing the impact of the incident. They're examining everything from the effects on animals and air quality to sampling the drinking water.

The site is now deemed stable and crews are working to get the railway back on track. Gryba said his family was able to return home Tuesday night after an environmentalist told them it was safe.

"It didn't just happen; there was a long line of stuff that led to it."

Postmedia goes all in

Kailey Guillemmin

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It was big news in Canadian journalism this week as Postmedia Network Canada Corp announced it was buying 175 English newspapers from Quebecor Inc.

The \$316 million deal will allow Postmedia to take control over Sun Media and their papers in places like Calgary, Edmonton and Toronto. Postmedia says that this deal will also make them the largest provider of digital content in Canada – meaning they'll own the majority of online content to the majority of Canadian viewers.

"This is a great endorsement in the future of made in Canada journalism. We're excited about what the future holds," Postmedia spokesperson Phyllise Gelfand said in an email.

Stephen Whitworth, editor of Regina's alternative weekly news magazine Prairie Dog, worries about the effect this will have on Canadian journalism.

"I think it's just a terrible idea that large companies can control virtually all media sources in the country," Whitworth said. "It can lead to a real narrowing of news."

Whitworth also worries it could "lead to a lot of layoffs." Cutbacks with staff and reporters could be in the future which would not be good for Canadian journalism as it has already been faced with cutbacks, Whitworth said.

But Gelfand said that "the newspaper industry is rapidly evolving, which requires us to continue to cut legacy costs while increasing investment in high-growth areas."

Gelfand continued on to say that "our intention is to keep open the major urban daily newspapers. Beyond that, until regulatory approvals are in place and the transaction closes, we can't speculate on the future."

It's no secret print journalism has had its challenges the past few years in Canada. Although Whitworth does believe people still want to read the newspaper, "it certainly doesn't give one confidence that print is going to be able to slow its decline at all."

Layoffs aren't his only concern though. "(The deal)



Photo by Kailey Guillemmin

Postmedia has acquired 175 more newspapers across Canada.

means less coverage, it means possibly outsized power for handpicked editors to direct the news in ways." Whitworth also worries about the conservative management behind both Postmedia and Sun Media and that this "could mean that both their report rates are more skewed to a conservative friendly perspective."

Gelfand used the example of Vancouver to show "(they) have a long tradition of operating two competing brands in one market for more than 30 years."

Could this deal have an affect closer to home in Regina? Well even though the Leader-Post already was being published by Postmedia, Whitworth says, "we won't be hit by this one," meaning the buyout of Sun Media papers.

"Quality journalism is something we believe in strongly and will continue to support," Gelfand said in response to the quality of reporting from this deal.

"All my thoughts were this is not a good time for Canadian print," Whitworth said, as he recalled hearing the announcement for the first time. "This isn't good for journalism, it's not good for readers, it's not good for democracy in society which requires good reporting."



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Is sports media failing women?

Rikkeal Bohmann

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It's one thing to be the only woman in the press box. It's another to be the only woman sports anchor in the province.

Sport reporting was a natural path for Bianca Millions – with her love of hockey and football and her background as a competitive figure skater.

Although, it's getting better in the industry, Millions said she still faces sexism while doing her job.

"A lot of players will think they can treat you like any other girl their age. They think it's okay to make comments. They think it's okay to ogle you while you do an interview," said Millions, "and that's where you have to just maintain your professionalism and take it graciously."

She's even faced it from coaches.

"Ideally, this would just not be an issue. Ideally, I would always be taken seriously," said Millions.

Millions expected this to happen when she entered the industry, but it hasn't stopped her from living her dream.

She said general knowledge and a real interest in sports is stopping a lot of women from getting into sports media.

"As a woman, if you don't know your stuff, you will be laughed out of there," said Millions.

Continuously questioning women's credibility in the field is a problem though, said Roz Kelsey, an instructor for kinesiology and health studies at the University of Regina.

"When men state something as fact it is particularly to a male audience, it is taken as absolute law. There are no questions of



Photo by Rikkeal Bohmann

CTV Regina's Bianca Millions is Saskatchewan's only female sports anchor.

their ability of that," said Kelsey.

Having more representation of women in sports media could also influence viewership, according to Kelsey.

"The viewing audiences of women that would be willing

over," said Kelsey.

In 2012, the Associated Press Sports Editors Racial and Gender Report Card stated 90 per cent of sports editors were men and 88 per cent of sports reporters were men.

the opinions of what men think about women in sports media. And, though women have gone a long way, she said there is still a long ways to go.

"Finding a woman who does either colour or either play by play in our industry is next to impossible," said Zerr.

Zerr thinks another approach is needed if women are to break through the glass ceiling that still exists in sports reporting.

"We don't need a sports show, that is all done by women, that's talking about sports, that's a show that appeals to women," said Zerr, "I think that if we want to look for equality in women's sports broadcasting and women's sports reporting then we should be including women in the dialogue of shows with men."

"As a woman, if you don't know your stuff, you will be laughed out of there."

- Bianca Millions

to engage in something that is representative of themselves, some women don't watch sports because they don't identify with it," she said.

But, it needs more conversation for it to happen.

"The change has to come from the power source. I can't change something I don't have control

CBS recently began airing "We Need to Talk", an all women cast national weekly sports talk show. It is the first of its kind in the United States and Canada.

Arielle Zerr won't be watching it though.

Zerr, a lifetime sports fan and a journalist with CBC, doesn't believe the CBS show will change

Have your say

We asked you if women are adequately represented in sports media...



Arman Navivi

"I'd say maybe they are equally represented, but they represent different chunks."



Matthew Ciabbock

They're mostly sideline reporters... They're not doing the hard stories or main analysis that men seem to be doing."



Sydney Leippi

"I feel like there could be more ladies, but then again I know women aren't as into sports as guys."

Saskatchewan shuffleboard showdown

Kaitlyn Van De Woestyne
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Sherry Clarke is competing for her eighth national championship in shuffleboard. She's been playing for just shy of 40 years. It's taken her all over the country, but this year she plans on winning at home. The national championships are being hosted in the queen city in honour of the championship's 50th anniversary.

The Saskatchewan charter put in a bid to host the championships this year, says event chairperson Cheryl Loughren. "It's the 50th, we're one of the larger charters and we can put on a better show... We have the fundraising and the membership," she said.

Sixty-four shuffle board pros, representing five provinces, have come in hopes of landing in the score zone and riding the rail to national champ. The four-day tournament, played in the ballroom of the Double Tree Hotel, is a double round



Photo by Kaitlyn Van De Woestyne

Sherry Clarke searches for the perfect weight on one of her throws during the Canadian National Shuffleboard Championships.

"These people are dedicated players and they are trying their best and they're the best from their provinces. It's more of a sport than people think it is."

- Sherry Clarke, Canadian shuffleboard champion

robin with the top three teams qualifying for playoffs.

The game is played in either singles or doubles. The goal is to land the rock in the score zone of the board for one, two, or three points. The closer to the end of the board the higher the score. A hanger, the Holy Grail for a shuffle board player, is when the rock hangs off the end of the board earning four points.

Clarke was first introduced to the sport by her mother who also competed heavily in the province. She says it was the social aspect of the game that initially drew her in and soon she was hooked. But for Clarke the hanger didn't come easy.

"I wasn't going to play with the good guys until I knew how to play, so I practiced for six to eight months just at the board in the back of the bar... Then I did that, practicing every day for five or six years," she said.

"A lot of people think of shuffle board as a drinking game... They think that you just go and drink and throw things, but it's

not like that at this level at all... these people are dedicated players and they are trying their best and they're the best from their provinces, it's more of a sport that people think it is," said Clarke.

"You have to learn what the board does, there are curls, and ups and downs and weight of a board. So I guess the thing is that you want to outmaneuver your opponents," she said.

"You're never out of it. You

he's out," said Mike Collins, a spectator.

He also started the sport young, but now plays only for recreation. He travels to many tournaments with his wife who competes regularly.

"It's a timeless sport as long as you can stand at the end of that board you can keep playing," he said.

As for Clarke, she says she's approaching the hammer of her long-time career. Shuffleboard was once a large part of her life, but she says she's ready to let it go and plans to retire after her 40th year in the game. For now, however she's just happy to be playing for a championship trophy.



Photo by Kaitlyn Van De Woestyne

A few of the trophies sit just waiting to be handed out to the victors on Wednesday.



Clockwise from top: Sixty-four of the best shuffleboard players in the country made themselves at home at the Double Tree Hotel from Oct. 8-10 for the Canadian National Shuffleboard Championships; a scorekeeper updates the standings after round two; Sherry Clarke watches her rock glide down the table; competitors intently watch a match during the opening day of competition.

Photos by Kaitlyn Van De Woestyne



From hitchhikers to businessmen

Khang Nguyen
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Cam Chomyn and Andrew Parry are used to acting on the spot, but their lives have become a lot more structured since becoming business owners last month.

They call themselves the Hitchhikers Improv Company, and they are one of the only improv companies in Regina.

Improv is a form of theatre where the actors have no scripts, or stories. What is seen on stage is created on the spot, and Chomyn and Parry are experts at it.

For the past five years, the duo of 20-year-olds, along with two others, Danny Murphy, 21, and Sam Gross, 20, have created a strong following and turned their passion into a small business.

"With Hitchhikers, you saw the four of us each month and we would bring in people who hadn't performed in awhile. It's sort of that hitchhiker aspect of picking people up from the side of the road. It was for those who never really had a chance post-highschool," said Chomyn, a University of Regina education student.

The four had successful high school careers as improvisers, but found that there were no opportunities to continue their craft after they graduated.

"There were so many times where we would talk to friends around the city and they would say, 'We haven't done something like that in so long.' We just took it into our own hands. Let's make these opportunities for people to do that," Chomyn said.

Along with seven main cast members, the group added 13 new members -- students who pay an annual fee of \$200 to be part of the group.

"In Regina, there are not a lot of improv classes other than the Globe Theatre and we just wanted to give the students a way to learn. We wanted to give the students a chance to come on board and be a member of our house teams which gives them an actual chance to perform every month and also workshop them and improve their improv skills," Chomyn said.

"It just popped into our heads and we were shocked no one in Regina was doing this yet -- like it was such a no-brainer to do this. Start work-shopping kids and improving their skills, and improve the improv community,



Photo by Khang Nguyen

Hitchhikers Improv Company's Cam Chomyn (left) and Andrew Parry are adding businessmen to their resumes, but they still have time to joke around.

it just came from that," he said.

Chomyn says that part of their mission is to make a stronger improv community like the ones they've seen in other Canadian cities.

"When we sat down to create Hitchhikers we realised that Regina had such a strong cast of improvisers but not that much of a community yet," Chomyn said.

"I think Hitchhikers is really trying to draw out that community aspect. Around Canada we see such wonderful companies and their communities are so strong. We're trying to build that

ing.

"We started with a bunch of our parents and maybe six of our close friends, and word just kept spreading and it grew to the point where we were selling out. The last three shows were packed. It just came to a point where we thought, 'we can't be here anymore,'" said Parry, a University of Regina film student.

"It came to a point where we had to turn people away at the door, and that's a horrible feeling for a performer," Chomyn added.

The move allows the Hitch-

"The thing that I love to work for is just making people smile. When you get a good hearty laugh from some biker dude who is sitting in the corner of the Artesian waiting for some stupid dick joke that you make, that's the specific moment I look for."

-Andrew Parry

up and we're moving in the right direction," he said.

For the last two years, the group had been performing out of Creative City Centre, but have since moved venues to The Artesian, a performance centre in Regina's Cathedral neighbourhood.

"It was a small long hallway that could fit 50 people. We started doing shows with maybe 10 people which included my parents," Chomyn says, laugh-

hikers to almost triple audience size. It also means an increase in ticket sales. In their first show of the season, they were able fill 141 seats.

"The most amazing thing was such an uproarious applause at the end. Performing for a crowd of 15, you don't get that. So to perform in front of 140 and to get that, that was great," said Chomyn.

Chomyn and Parry say that the money from the shows goes

mostly to rent, but also back into the company in the form of out-of-town events and festivals.

The duo admits that the added stress of being business owners has been challenging, but after a successful opening show last month, they are excited about their new businesses' outlook.

"We thought we could make ourselves more apparent in the city. We have the ability to do that. We spent all of summer finding a place to perform, finding out who was interested in building this kind of community, figuring out pricing, reading a budget for something -- that was something I had never done before," Parry said.

"It was so stressful until that moment when it was eight o'clock and the show started. All of the stress went away and seeing the crowd react was so great. I think in those moments all of the work you've been doing and all of the hair you've lost is totally worth it," said Chomyn.

"The thing that I love to work for is just making people smile. When you get a good hearty laugh from some biker dude who is sitting in the corner of the Artesian waiting for some stupid dick joke that you make, that's the specific moment I look for," said Parry.

The Hitchhikers Improv Company performs monthly shows at the Artesian. Its next show is on Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Tension building in new U of R residence

Alex Soloducha

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A new residence is popping up at the University of Regina and it hasn't gone unnoticed. Its construction has put a major dent in parking, taking up two lots for the first month of school - and leaving some students wondering if the project will be worth it in the long run.

The building, consisting of two 13-storey towers and two five-storey wings, seems to have everyone talking. While some students say living on campus is a great experience, former College West resident Daryl Wiebe is concerned about building maintenance.

Wiebe lived in the College West Residence for both her second and third years at the University of Regina. "My first year was really good," said Wiebe. "My second year was not good at all."

Wiebe said living there seemed like a good way to get to know people, and without a vehicle it would also be convenient. The first year everything went well, she said, but the second was completely different.

"It was dirty when we moved in and they wouldn't come and clean it," she said. "When they did come clean it, it wasn't very good."

"You'd fill out more maintenance reports and more maintenance reports which led to a meeting and it still took them until after Christmas to fix the problem."

The problem: black mould in her bathroom. The eventual solution was a dab of silicone to cover it up.

Wiebe took her initial maintenance request to the residence advisors, which led to a meeting in the residence office. When nothing was done she called public health and safety. After they taught her how to clean the black mould herself, she was told that she wasn't allowed to use the strong cleaners in the residence.

Having allergies to mould meant Wiebe's health soon took a nosedive. Still, she said, there was no way around it.

"It was a losing battle for a student who has no time," she said. "It's so much stress on top of school."

"I don't live on campus this year; I wouldn't want to."

The new residence was a ques-

tionable choice by the university according to Wiebe. "I just feel like they should've fixed the first one before they spent their money building a new one," she said.

Wiebe said you won't likely see her telling people to sign up

people," she said, and the best part: convenience. "You could roll out of bed and go to class."

She said the new building will likely seem like a better plan once it's done. "It's a good idea to have more people on campus but it sucks for parking," she

anything, just easy to walk to class."

Neil Paskewitz, director of planning design and construction with facilities management, said they're hoping many first years will want to take advantage of the new buildings 605 new spots when it opens next fall.

"First year students are to be guaranteed, I believe, a spot in residence," he said. "We really want to make it welcoming for students."

"Really, the best place for you to be in first year is on campus."

To address the new parking dilemmas, they're also adding 150 stalls of underground parking. Lastly, a new daycare with 90 spots will also be in the addition.

"The overall strategy for our campus here is to get more housing on campus," he said. "The ideal seems to be about 20 per cent, so if you do the math for ours that's roughly about a capacity of 2,800."

He said the university is currently able to give housing to 1,200 students.

The "ultimate plan" according to Paskewitz is to have four buildings completed which will fully occupy lots two and three.

"The rest of the buildings would take us right up to that 2,800 capacity," said Paskewitz.

He said the possible construction of the other three phases is based on how quickly the new one fills up and the waiting list to get in to residence.

The total budget for the first building has been set at \$83 million.

Paskewitz said the decision to build followed a number of years of consecutive growth. Still, he said the old residences will continue to be used, even College West.

"It sort of depends on what the preference of the student is," he said. "The configuration of College West, the size of it and the room sharing, is still pretty popular."

"Having said that, it's an old building and it needs a lot of stuff. It does need some renewal."

An "ongoing plan" to update the building is in place, he said.

And as far as parking goes, Paskewitz agrees it isn't ideal.

"I sympathize," he said. "During any construction the transition hurts because it's either access to get in and out of the campus or availability of parking because you're doing this."



Top: A dorm in the U of R's Language Institute. Photo by Alex Soloducha. Bottom: Black mould found in Daryl Wiebe's room in College West made her ill. Photo by Daryl Wiebe

to live there.

"You meet tons of new people and it is a great experience it's just too bad my second one was so negative," she said. "If I recommended to a first year, or anyone for that matter, 'go live in residence, it's great', and then they end up with the same experience as me I would feel awful. So I just wouldn't do that."

Aleah Willner lived in residence for two years as well but had a different experience.

"It was a way to meet new

said.

Willner would, in contrast, recommend living on campus.

"First years... I would say yeah, live in res, you can meet people. But after that it just doesn't seem as fun."

Alyssa Doer is a first year education student living in South Residence this year.

"I figured it would be a good way to meet different people," she said. "I like it."

"It's easy because you don't have to worry about parking or

Revisiting #BringBackOurGirls

Jason Kerr

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While ISIS and Hong Kong dominate headlines, an issue that used to command international attention is slowly concluding away from the cameras.

Six months after extremist group Boko Haram kidnapped more than 200 girls from a government boarding school in Chibok, Nigeria, activists continue to hope for a happy resolution, even as the world fixes its attention elsewhere.

"I think that (hope) is the word, that hopefully one day the girls, those who are still alive (will be

"It's unfortunate," said Ekong, who, like Otitoju, was born in Nigeria before moving to Canada. "That had some life when it happened and as soon as all the other things happened, the atten-

"I think that (hope) is the world, that hopefully one day the girls, those who are still alive (will be rescued)."

tion turned away."

Even with the strong emotions surrounding the issue, both women maintain a pragmatic view of the issue and the media

all time low for the issue, but that doesn't mean there's been a shortage of developments. According to media reports, between 53 and 63 girls escaped their captors in July and made

- Rebecca Otitoju

their way back home, giving supporters something to celebrate.

"That was a little bit of good news," Ekong said.

As for the rest of the girls,

problem has all four countries worried enough to establish a joint command centre to co-ordinate the fight against the Muslim extremist group.

"It's a delicate issue. One has to tread carefully. I don't know if there is anything in Canada that one could liken it to," Ekong said. "Boko Haram is almost like ISIS now. These are people who don't have a viable code of conduct. It's really difficult to negotiate with them."

"With what we have happening right now in Iraq, with ISIS, I think it's comparable to some extent," Otitoju agreed. "Nigeria has had issues with Muslims attacking

not so that I can shout, but so those without a voice can be
afzai #quote #bringbackourgirls

caileaggair · 1d

against #BokoHaram - hope rescuing #Chibokgirls is a
v/permalink.php?... #BringBackOurGirls #Nigeria

unity @OpenHouseRadio · 1d

Photo by Jason Kerr

#BringBackOurGirls isn't going as strong as it used to, but there's still plenty of hope that the more than 200 girls kidnapped by Boko Haram to be found.

rescued)," said Rebecca Otitoju, a Nigerian-born Canadian who lives in White City. "I think it's just a fight that has to continue, but we hope that one day they will be able to get these girls back."

Otitoju and Jane Ekong were just two of the many Regina residents who rallied to support the girls back in May. With the issue making daily front page news, a group of Nigerian women organized a rally at the legislature on May 16. However, while many people have turned their attention to other issues, Otitoju and Ekong are still watching.

coverage it generated.

"So many other critical things have happened in the world, so it has kind of fallen off the radar, which is kind of unfortunate, but that's just how it is," Ekong explained.

"(The Nigerian government) felt that the more they give out information to the public, the more that would jeopardize the safety of the girls and (the negotiations), which I think is fair," Otitoju said. "A lot of times, even here, you get an investigation and not everything is released to the public."

Media scrutiny may be at an

accounts vary, but most media reports say they are still being held in Nigeria, with Boko Haram trying to trade them for prisoners. Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathon, who is up for re-election in February, has so far refused to make such a trade.

There have been a few setbacks too. The Nigerian Army has major supply problems, and morale is dropping after the government recently cut their pay in half. Meanwhile Boko Haram has expanded from their foothold in the northeastern part of the country and into neighboring Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The

Christians for years, even before people like me left Nigeria, and nothing was done."

Both women say they aren't aware of any plans to hold more rallies in the city, but they still hope Canadians won't forget about the issue. The only way these intimidation tactics will work, they say, is if the world forgets about them.

"I know that the spotlight is no longer on the issue, but I would tell people not to forget," Ekong said. "These young ladies cannot be forgotten."